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) **BOX AF**

) Group Art Unit: 1655

) Examiner: F. Lu

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Sir:

In The Claims:

5. (Amended) A process for investigating spermatogenesis and monitoring it, respectively, in a male animal, comprising puncturing the animal's testis and detecting the presence of cAMP responsive element modulator (CREM) and/or CREM-dependent proteins, wherein if CREM is not expressed or expressed only to a reduced extent and not expressed in phosphorylated form, respectively, so that CREM-dependent proteins are not expressed either or expressed only to a reduced extent, there will be unbalanced